In my third grade classroom we chant the army song tune---

1,2 round down 3,4 round down---1234 round down---

5,6 round up 7,8 round up 5678 round up and 9 also.

Pam Howell, 10/07/00 on teachers.net math board

rounding rhyme

I have a rhyme for you that worked well with 4/5 SLD students - we also circle and underline the numbers to distinguish - I tried this with general ed third graders also and it worked well.

1 through 4 stay on the floor   
5 through 9 climb the vine

Susan Smith, 2/21/05 in a message to Math Cats

I draw a mountain on the board. I put a 0 at the left and right base of the mountain and 5 at the top of the mountain. I then write the numbers 1 - 4 up the left side of the mountain and 6 - 9 on the right side of the mountain.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| I have a white board and can use magnets so I cut a car out of a large magnet and begin my trip up the mountain. If the number ends in 1 - 4, I drive the car to that number, get out to look at the view and forget to put the car in park. The first time that I do this activity, I ask what happens to the car if it's not in park and the students tell me it will roll. We discuss whether it will roll up the hill to the next number or back down to the lower number. We talk about the fact that a car won't roll up so the number rounds to the lower number. | http://www.mathcats.com/grownupcats/mountainrounding01.gif |

If the number ends in 6 - 9, we repeat the process with the car, discuss whether it will roll forward or backward when I look at the view, and round to the higher number. If the number is 5, we determine that the engine end of the car probably weighs more than the empty trunk, so the car will roll forward to the higher number.

This has worked well with at-risk students in summer school and with various levels of math students during the year. Sometimes, I'll give them a piece of construction paper with a mountain and a small toy car so they can work problems at their desk.

Lynn Tessin, 9/3/03 in a message to Math Cats

http://www.mathcats.com/grownupcats/ideabankrounding.html